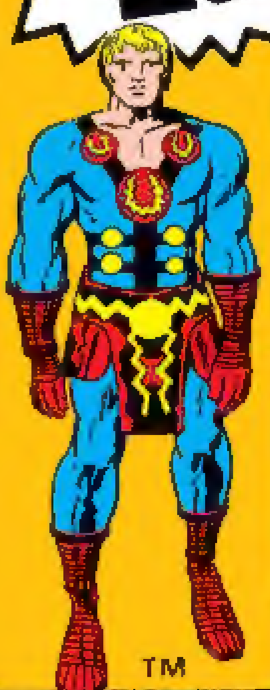
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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™



MORE FANTASTIC THAN CHARIOTS OF THE GODS!

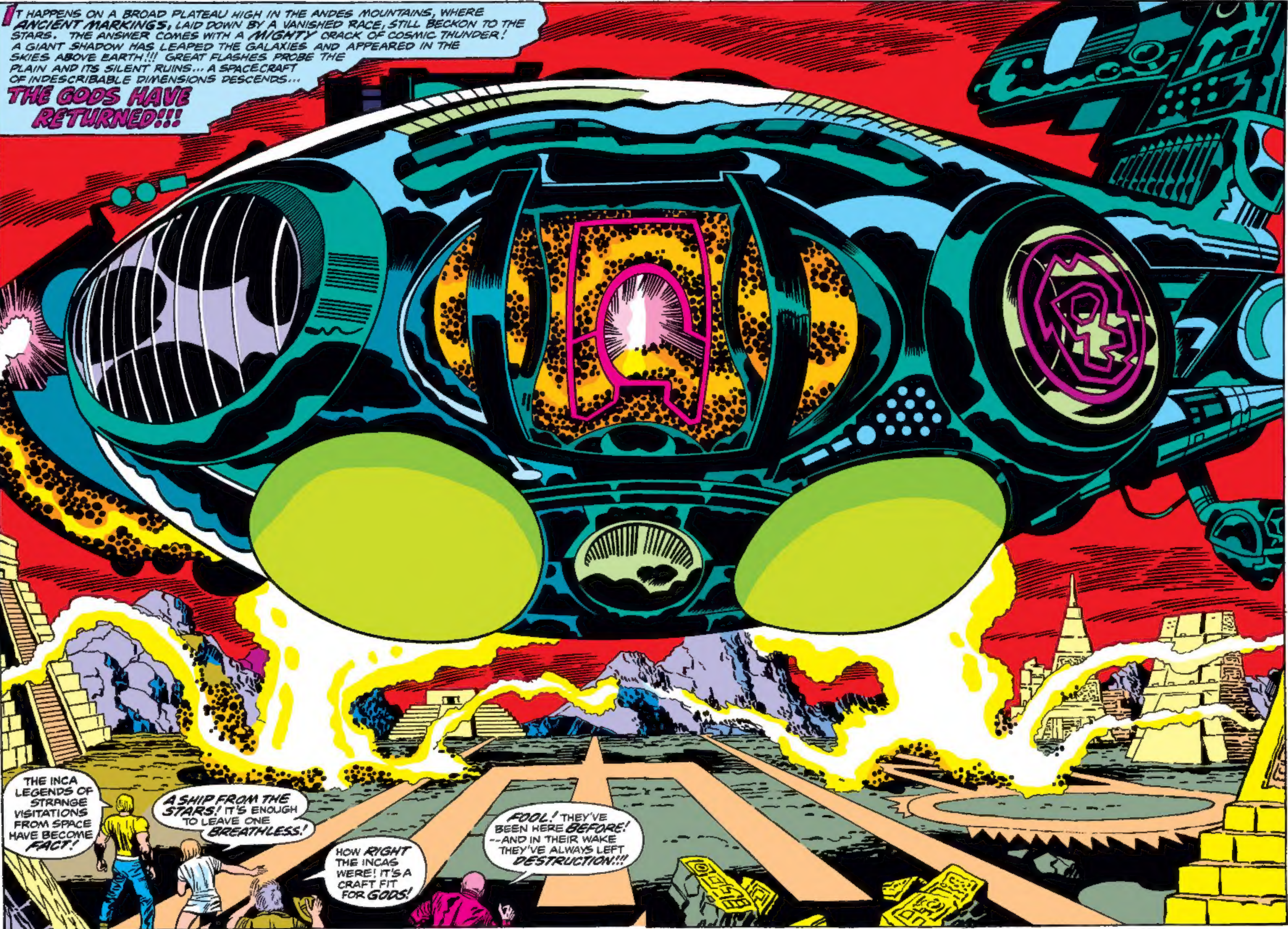
THIS IS IT!!

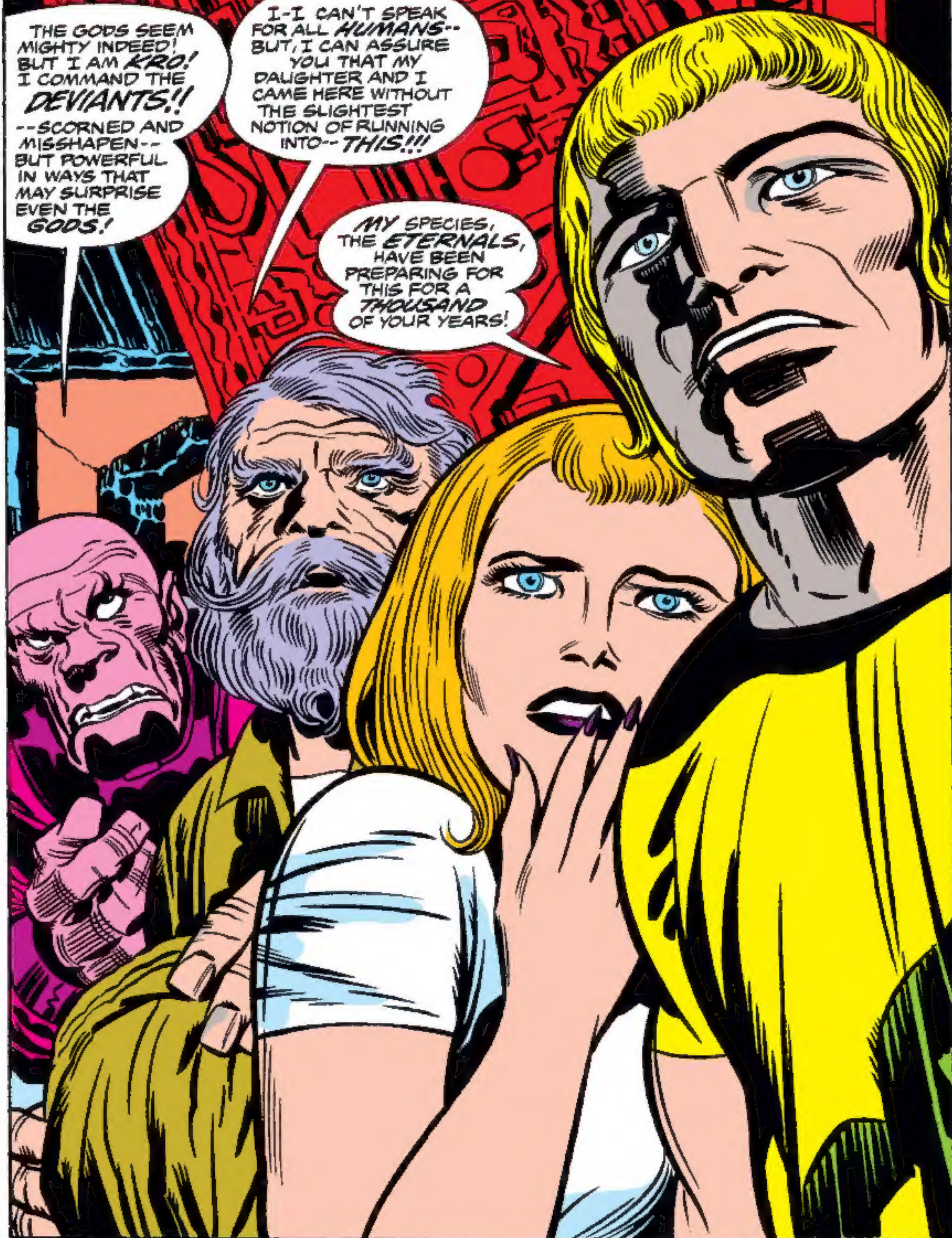
THE COMING OF THE CELESTIALS!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE ETERNALS!**™



EDITED, WRITTEN, & DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY | JOHN VERPOORTEN, INKER JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER GLYNIS WEIN, COLORIST | MARV WOLFMAN, CONSULTING EDITOR


IT HAPPENS ON A BROAD PLATEAU HIGH IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS, WHERE ANCIENT MARKINGS, LAID DOWN BY A VANISHED RACE, STILL BECKON TO THE STARS. THE ANSWER COMES WITH A MIGHTY CRACK OF COSMIC THUNDER! A GIANT SHADOW HAS LEAPED THE GALAXIES AND APPEARED IN THE SKIES ABOVE EARTH!!! GREAT FLASHES PROBE THE PLAIN AND ITS SILENT RUINS... A SPACECRAFT OF INDESCRIBABLE DIMENSIONS DESCENDS...
THE GODS HAVE RETURNED!!!
THE INCA LEGENDS OF STRANGE VISITATIONS FROM SPACE HAVE BECOME FACT!
A SHIP FROM THE STARS! IT'S ENOUGH TO LEAVE ONE BREATHLESS!
HOW RIGHT THE INCAS WERE! IT'S A CRAFT FIT FOR GODS!
FOOL! THEY'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE! --AND IN THEIR WAKE THEY'VE ALWAYS LEFT DESTRUCTION!!!


REVELATIONS OF AN ASTOUNDING NATURE HAVE ALREADY PRECEEDED THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPACE GODS... FOR THE ONLOOKERS AT THE SCENE REPRESENT THE THREE DOMINANT SPECIES GENERATED BY THE GODS' FIRST VISIT TO EARTH, MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO! WAS IT CHANCE THAT BROUGHT THESE WITNESSES HERE?-- OR A DESTINY YET TO BE FULFILLED???
THE GODS SEEM MIGHTY INDEED! BUT I AM KRO! I COMMAND THE DEVIANTS!! --SCORNED AND MISSHAPEN-- BUT POWERFUL IN WAYS THAT MAY SURPRISE EVEN THE GODS!
I-I CAN'T SPEAK FOR ALL HUMANS-- BUT, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY DAUGHTER AND I CAME HERE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST NOTION OF RUNNING INTO-- THIS!!!
MY SPECIES, THE ETERNALS, HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS FOR A THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS!



SUDDENLY, KRO RUSHES FORWARD!!
SO HAVE THE DEVIANTS! WE HAVEN'T SPENT THESE PAST CENTURIES IN IDLE SPORT! YOU SHALL SEE!
HE MUST BE MAD TO DEFY THE BUILDERS OF SUCH A SHIP!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STUMBLED UPON AN OLD GRUDGE!
AN OLD SCAR, MARGO... THE DEVIANTS ONCE CHALLENGED THE GODS-- AND LOST!



YES, WE LOST! -- AND, WE WERE DRIVEN IN SHAME TO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH!! BUT WE SHALL RISE AGAIN!
RRRUMMBLE!



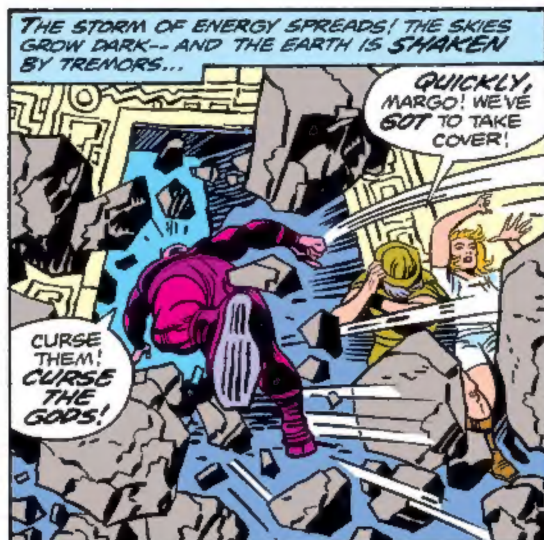
OUR WILL IS STRONG! OUR WEAPONS ARE MIGHTY! OUR VICTORY IS SURE!
THE DEVIANTS SHALL SEND YOU BACK TO THE STARS! -- BROKEN IN DEFEAT AND FILLED WITH THE FEAR OF OUR PURSUIT!! HEAR THIS AND TREMBLE!!



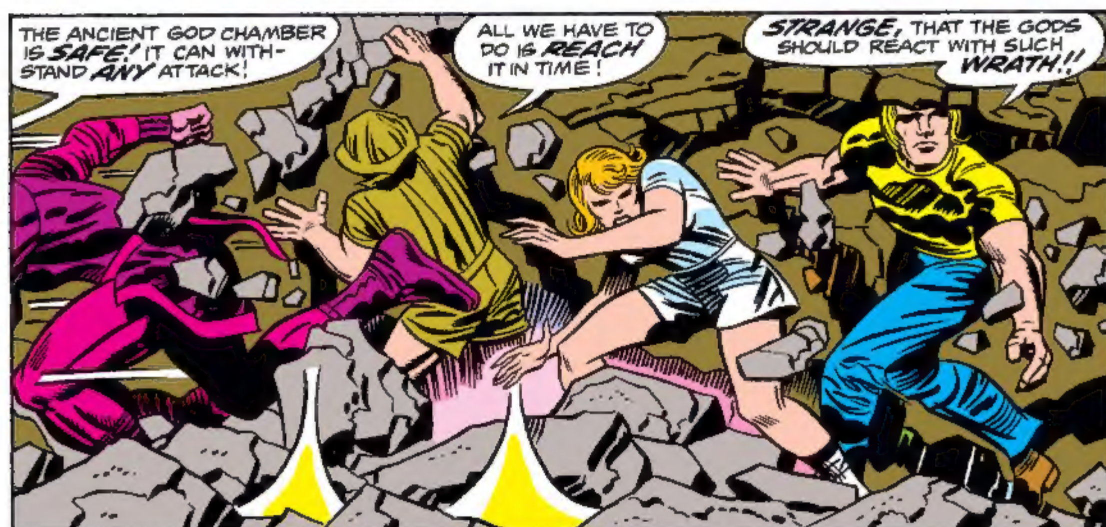
IF THERE IS ANY SIGN FROM THE HOVERING GODS, IT IS THE SUDDEN EXPLOSIVE FLARE-UP IN ENERGY EMISSION...
CRAASHH!



FOOL! TO ANGER THE GODS IS TO INVITE DESTRUCTION!!
T-THAT LIGHTNING-- I-IT'S GET-TING WORSE!
WHAM!


THE STORM OF ENERGY SPREADS! THE SKIES GROW DARK-- AND THE EARTH IS SHAKEN BY TREMORS...
QUICKLY, MARGO! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE COVER!
CURSE THEM! CURSE THE GODS!


WISELY SPOKEN, DOCTOR! THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FLYING ROCK!
I-IF THIS KEEPS UP, THESE RUINS MAY COLLAPSE AND BURY US!


THE ANCIENT GOD CHAMBER IS SAFE! IT CAN WITHSTAND ANY ATTACK!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS REACH IT IN TIME!
STRANGE, THAT THE GODS SHOULD REACT WITH SUCH WRATH!!


I--IKARIS--Y-YOU'RE AN ETERNAL-- SOMETHING LIKE A GOD YOURSELF... CAN'T YOU, SOMEHOW, PUT A STOP TO THIS?
YES, IF I COULD READ THE THOUGHTS OF THE GODS! BUT THAT IS BEYOND ME!


LEGEND HAS IT THAT THERE WAS ONE WHO WAS GRANTED PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE GODS-- THE INCAS CALLED HIM "TECUMOTZIN, LORD OF FLIGHT..."
AS ARCHAEOLOGISTS, MISS DAMIAN, YOU AND YOUR FATHER KNOW THAT TECUMOTZIN VANISHED WITH THE INCAS...

MEANWHILE, THE TREMORS GROW STRONGER! THE ANCIENT RUIN GROANS AND CRACKS BENEATH EACH SONIC SHOCK!!
THEY MEAN TO DESTROY US! WE'LL ALL DIE-- EXCEPT YOU, IKARIS! AN ETERNAL CAN'T DIE-- BUT HE CAN STAY BURIED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
THE ROOF! I-IT'S--
BLAAM!
Y-YOUR TROOPS AWAIT, GREAT KRO! WE CAN STILL ESCAPE! OUR VESSEL IS READY!





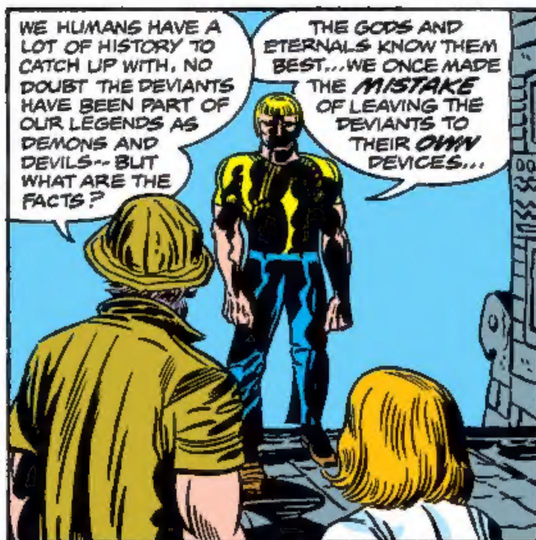
BUT YOU RUN TO NO AVAIL, KRO! FOR YOU AND YOUR DEVIANTS, THE EARTH IS A BIG, ROUND CAGE! WHEN YOU COME OUT OF YOUR HOLES, THE GODS WILL BE WAITING!!

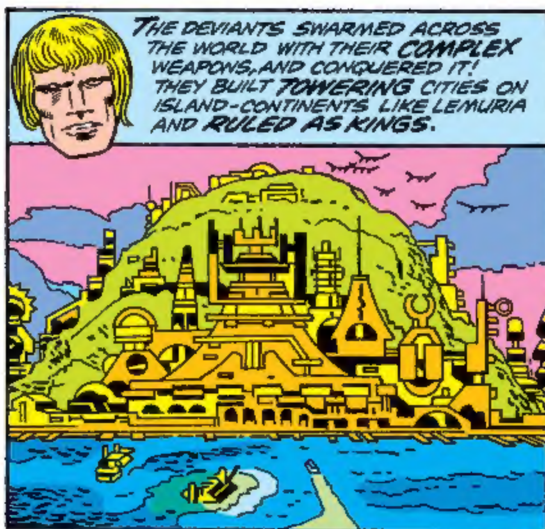
I'LL REMEMBER THAT, IKARIS! -- LONG AFTER THIS BECOMES YOUR TOMB, AND YOUR NAME JOINS THAT OF FAMED TECUMOTZIN AMONG THE VANISHED!

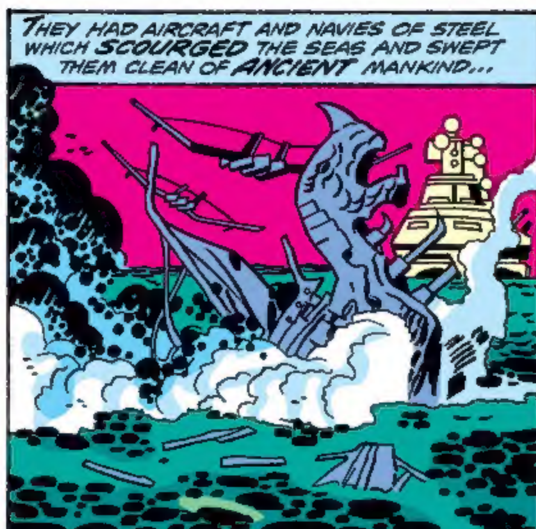
THE CHAMBER OF THE GODS IS HUGE AND AGELESS. ITS PURPOSE, LOST TO TIME. BUT, THE BOTTOM OF ITS GIANT WELL LEADS TO THE OPEN SEA.

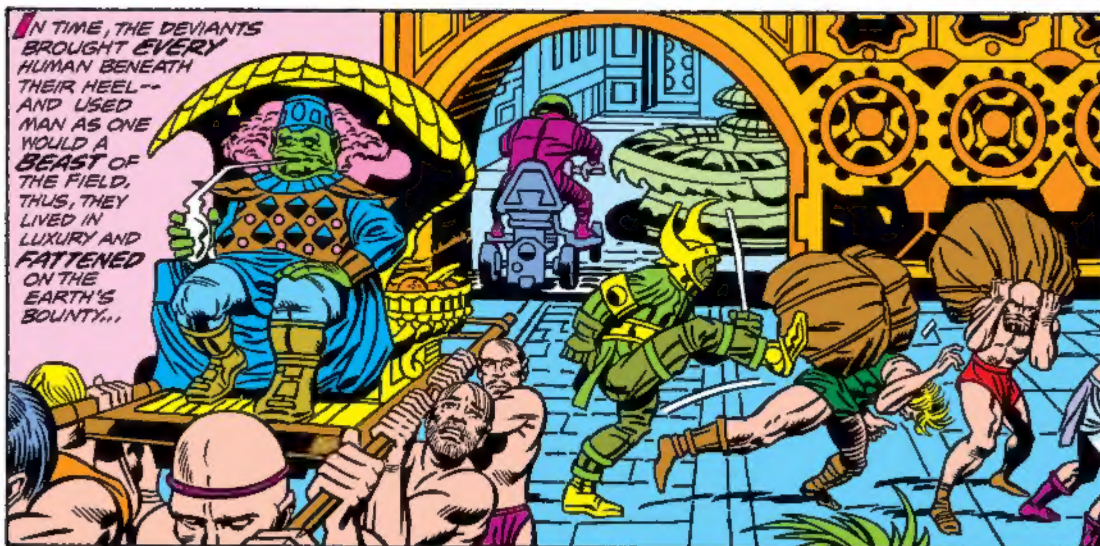
WHEN KRO AND HIS GROUP LEAVE IN THEIR UNDERSEA VESSEL, THEY WILL NEVER RETURN TO THIS PLACE AGAIN WITHOUT FEAR OF DANGER, FOR THE CHAMBER'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE IS DESTINED TO BE FULFILLED!!!

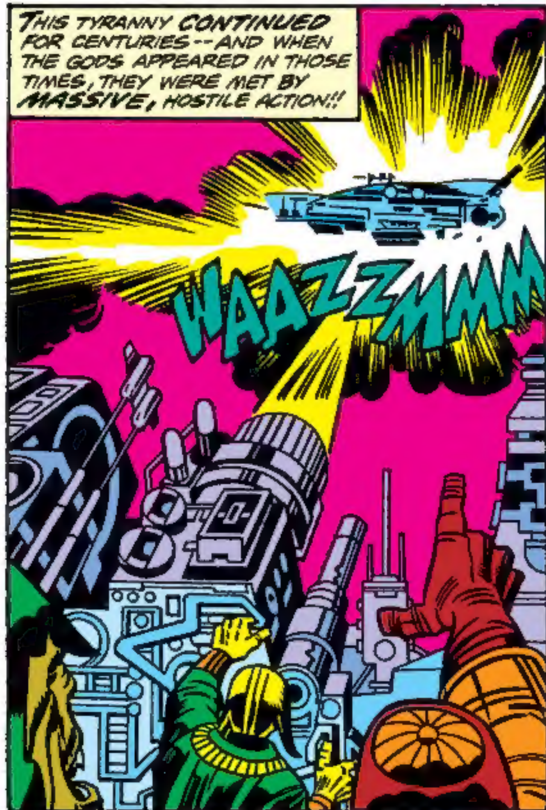

KRO AND HIS JACKALS ARE GONE. WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAD TO TAKE THEIR HATE WITH THEM!
THE SHOCKS SEEM TO HAVE DIMINISHED, BUT WE MAY STILL BE IN DANGER!
I'M GLAD! I'D RATHER DIE HERE, THAN JOIN THOSE DEVIANTS!

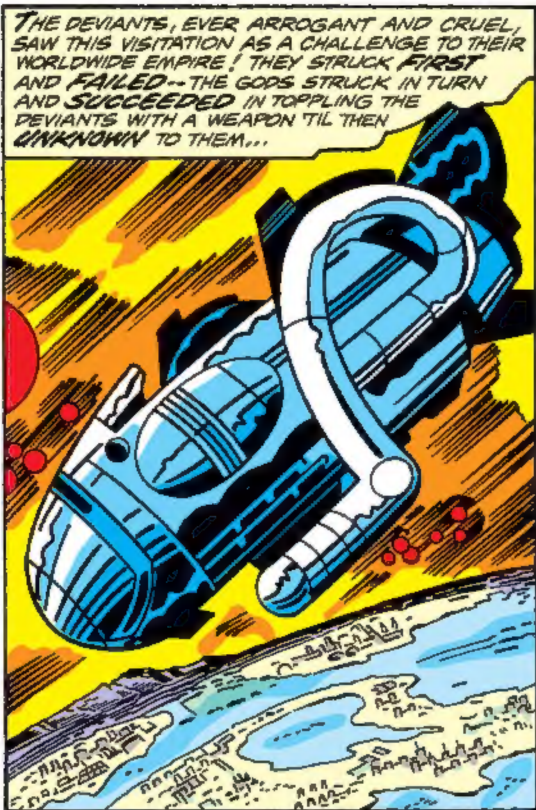

WE HUMANS HAVE A LOT OF HISTORY TO CATCH UP WITH. NO DOUBT THE DEVIANTS HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR LEGENDS AS DEMONS AND DEVILS-- BUT WHAT ARE THE FACTS?
THE GODS AND ETERNALS KNOW THEM BEST... WE ONCE MADE THE MISTAKE OF LEAVING THE DEVIANTS TO THEIR OWN DEVICES...


THE DEVIANTS SWARMED ACROSS THE WORLD WITH THEIR COMPLEX WEAPONS, AND CONQUERED IT! THEY BUILT TOWERING CITIES ON ISLAND-CONTINENTS LIKE LEMURIA AND RULED AS KINGS.


THEY HAD AIRCRAFT AND NAVIES OF STEEL WHICH SCOURGED THE SEAS AND SWEPT THEM CLEAN OF ANCIENT MANKIND...

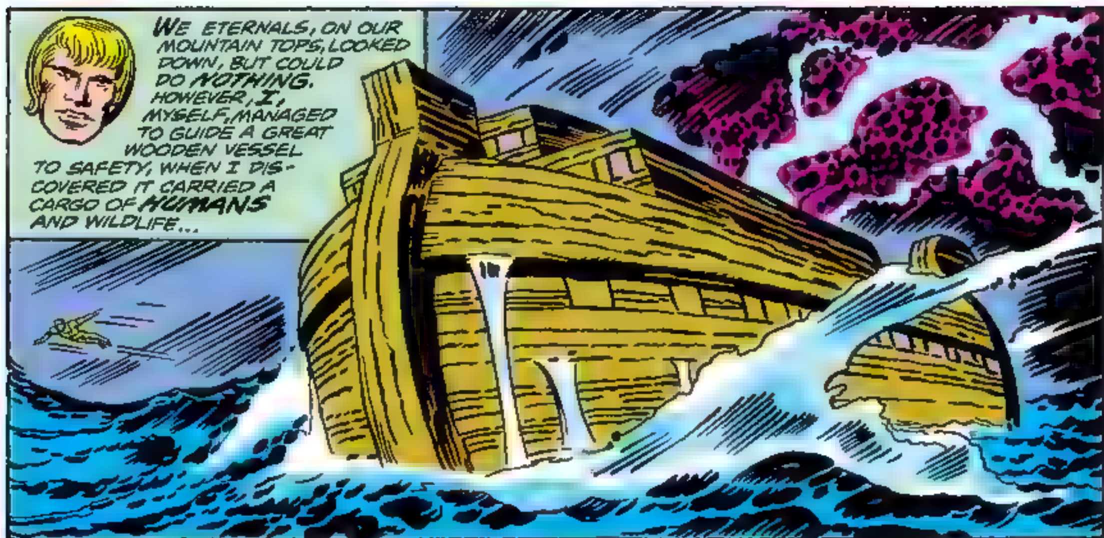

IN TIME, THE DEVIANTS BROUGHT EVERY HUMAN BENEATH THEIR HEEL-- AND USED MAN AS ONE WOULD A BEAST OF THE FIELD. THUS, THEY LIVED IN LUXURY AND FATTENED ON THE EARTH'S BOUNTY...


THIS TYRANNY CONTINUED FOR CENTURIES--AND WHEN THE GODS APPEARED IN THOSE TIMES, THEY WERE MET BY MASSIVE, HOSTILE ACTION!!
WAAZZMMM

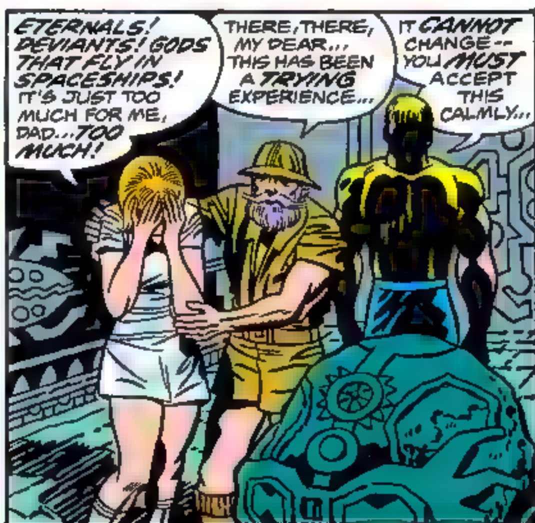

THE DEVIANTS, EVER ARROGANT AND CRUEL, SAW THIS VISITATION AS A CHALLENGE TO THEIR WORLDWIDE EMPIRE! THEY STRUCK FIRST AND FAILED--THE GODS STRUCK IN TURN AND SUCCEEDED IN TOPPLING THE DEVIANTS WITH A WEAPON 'TIL THEN UNKNOWN TO THEM...

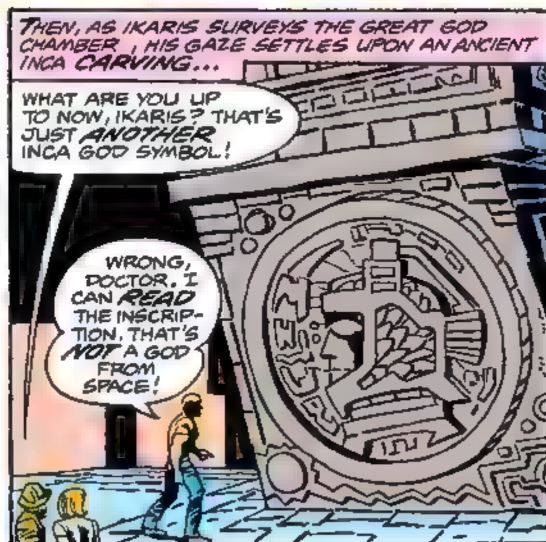

IT WAS ONE OF ITS KIND, BUT ITS TERRIBLE POWER SHOOK THE WORLD--ITS FIRES LEAPED FROM ONE CONTINENT TO ANOTHER AND TURNED THEM INTO BLAZING SUNS...

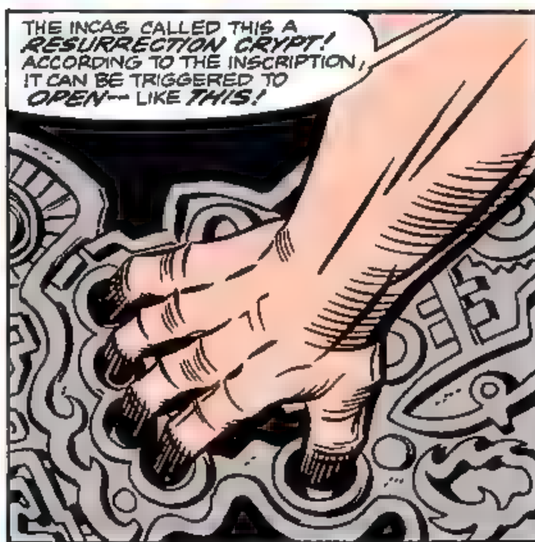

GREAT WINDS AND FIRE STORMS LEVELED THE BASTIONS OF POWER. TIDAL WAVES THE SIZE OF MOUNTAINS DROWNED THE LAND AND ALL THAT LIVED UPON IT. LEMURIA AND ITS SISTER CONTINENTS VANISHED IN THAT ONE DARK DAY...

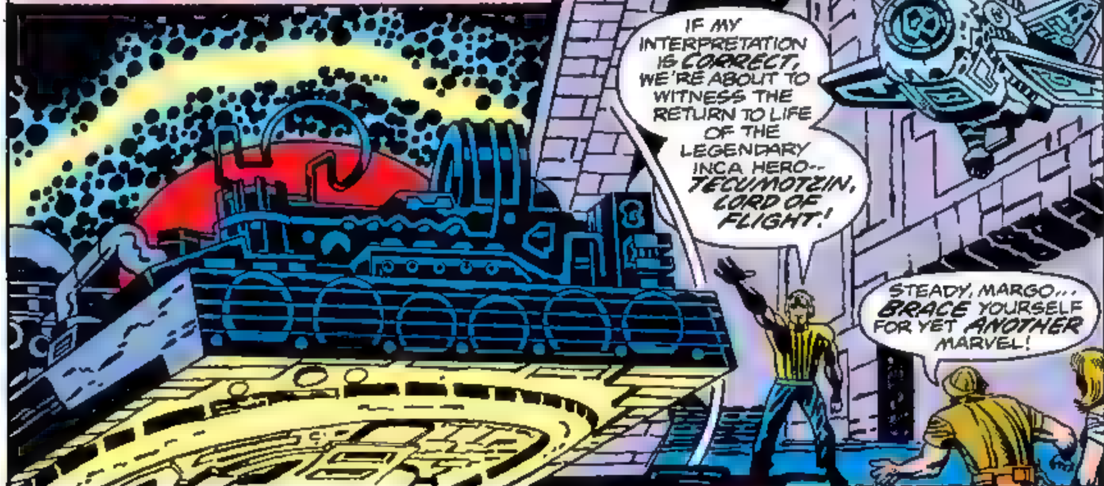

WE ETERNALS, ON OUR MOUNTAIN TOPS, LOOKED DOWN, BUT COULD DO NOTHING. HOWEVER, I, MYSELF, MANAGED TO GUIDE A GREAT WOODEN VESSEL TO SAFETY, WHEN I DISCOVERED IT CARRIED A CARGO OF HUMANS AND WILDLIFE...

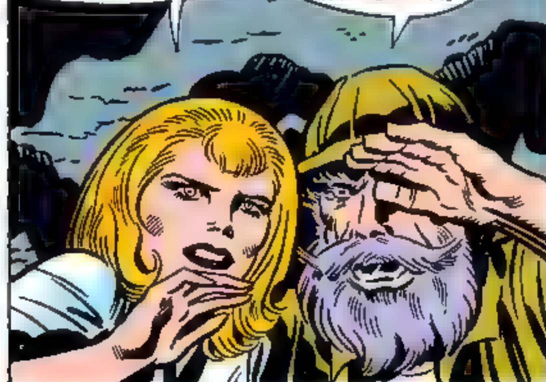

I LED THEM TO A MOUNTAIN TOP WHICH JUTTED FROM THE WATERS, AND LEVITATED TO MY DISTANT HOME... I SUPPOSE THOSE HUMANS MISTOOK ME FOR SOME KIND OF BIRD...
Y-YOU LIVED AT THE TIME OF THE FLOOD? YOU SAW-- THE ARK?
I-IT'S INCRED-ABLE!

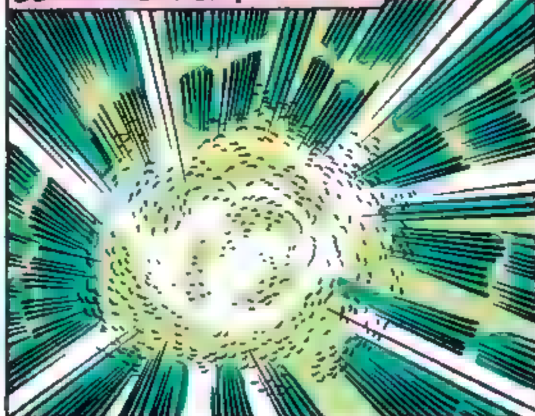

ETERNALS! DEVIANTS! GODS THAT FLY IN SPACESHIPS! IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME, DAD...TOO MUCH!
THERE, THERE, MY DEAR... THIS HAS BEEN A TRYING EXPERIENCE...
IT CANNOT CHANGE -- YOU MUST ACCEPT THIS CALMLY...

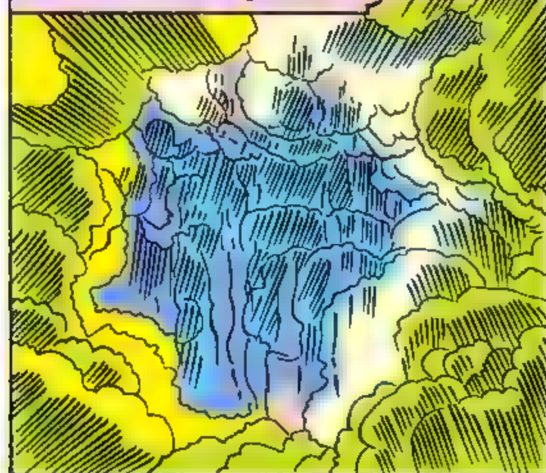

THEN, AS IKARIS SURVEYS THE GREAT GOD CHAMBER , HIS GAZE SETTLES UPON AN ANCIENT INCA CARVING...
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW, IKARIS? THAT'S JUST ANOTHER INCA GOD SYMBOL!
WRONG, DOCTOR. I CAN READ THE INSCRIPTION. THAT'S JUST NOT A GOD FROM SPACE!


THE INCAS CALLED THIS A RESURRECTION CRYPT! ACCORDING TO THE INSCRIPTION, IT CAN BE TRIGGERED TO OPEN-- LIKE THIS!


THERE IS A CLICK...THE SOFT CRACKLE OF ENERGY... AS THE CRYPT DOOR SLOWLY FALLS OPEN...
IF MY INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT, WE'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE RETURN TO LIFE OF THE LEGENDARY INCA HERO-- TECUMOTZIN, LORD OF FLIGHT!
STEADY, MARGO... BRACE YOURSELF FOR YET ANOTHER MARVEL!

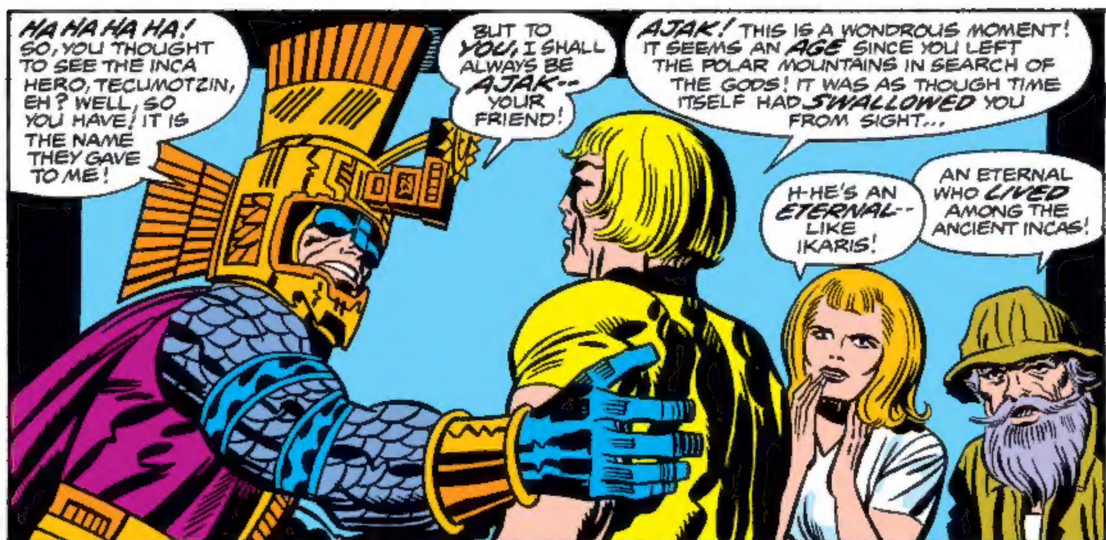

THIS TECUMOTZIN-- IKARIS MENTIONED HIM EARLIER. HE WAS THE ONE WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE GODS...
SHIELD YOUR EYES, MY DEAR-- THERE'S SOME SORT OF RADIO-ACTIVE PROCESS TAKING PLACE IN THAT CRYPT!!

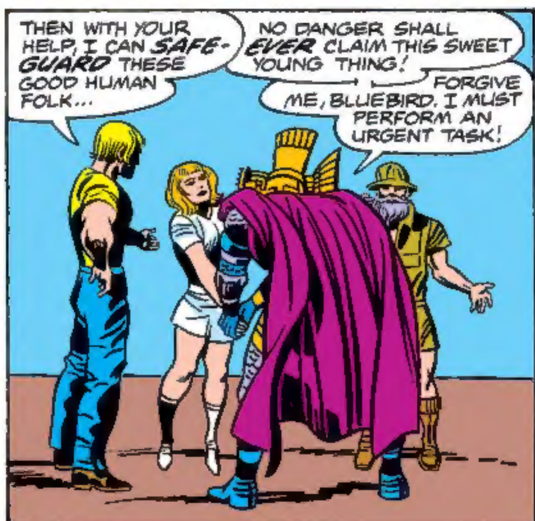

THE ONLOOKERS ARE UNAWARE THAT THEY'RE WATCHING THE FORMING AND RE-FORMING OF MANY INDIVIDUAL ATOMIC STRUCTURES-- LIVING ATOMS BECOMING MEN!


IT TAKES MERE MINUTES...THE BRILLIANCE FADES AND A THIN MIST VEILS THE MOVING, MAN-LIKE SHADOWS BEYOND...


IT IS DONE! IF THE CARVINGS WERE TRUE, I MAY HAVE BROUGHT US AID FROM THE PAST!!
THERE ARE MEN IN THE CRYPT! T-THEY'RE ALIVE!
GOOD LORD! T-THEY'RE COMING OUT!!


THERE IS A MOMENT OF STUNNED SILENCE--AN AUDIBLE INTAKE OF BREATH-- A MOMENT WHEN THE HEART SKIPS A BEAT--THEN...
TO WORK, UNIT! LEAP TO YOUR TASKS!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN RESTORED WITHOUT REASON! THE GODS HAVE RETURNED!
BY THE POLAR WINDS! DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? CAN IT BE THAT A FELLOW ETERNAL HAS BROUGHT US BACK TO ACTION?
IKARIS, OLD FRIEND! EVEN IN THESE INCA TRAPPINGS, YOU MUST KNOW ME!


HA HA HA HA! SO, YOU THOUGHT TO SEE THE INCA HERO, TECUMOTZIN, EH? WELL, SO YOU HAVE! IT IS THE NAME THEY GAVE TO ME!
BUT TO YOU, I SHALL ALWAYS BE AJAK-- YOUR FRIEND!
AJAK! THIS IS A WONDROUS MOMENT! IT SEEMS AN AGE SINCE YOU LEFT THE POLAR MOUNTAINS IN SEARCH OF THE GODS! IT WAS AS THOUGH TIME ITSELF HAD SWALLOWED YOU FROM SIGHT...
H-HE'S AN ETERNAL-- LIKE IKARIS!
AN ETERNAL WHO LIVED AMONG THE ANCIENT INCAS!

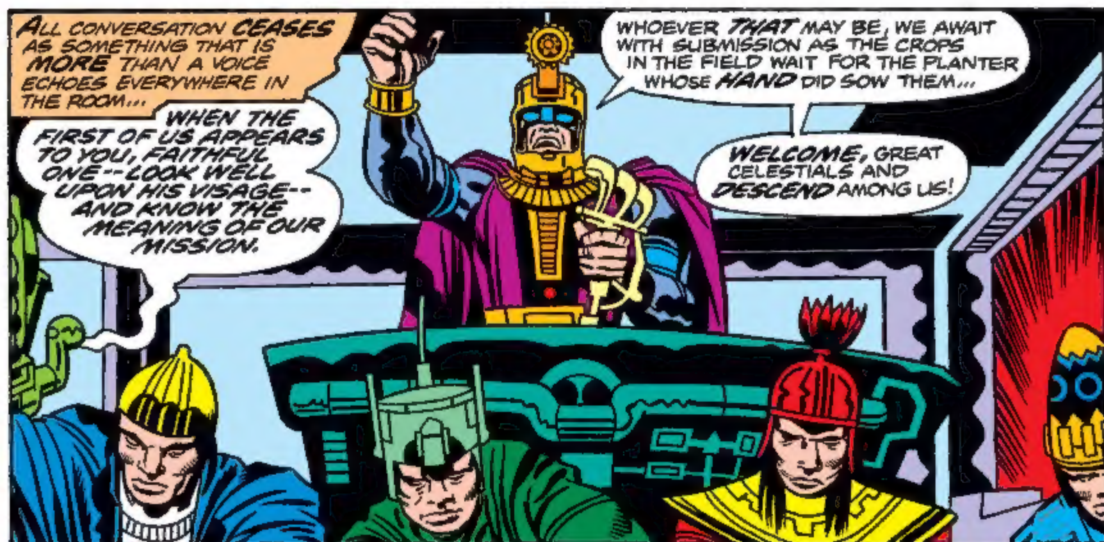
YOU FOUND THE GODS, AJAK-- WHEN THEY APPEARED TO THE INCAS-- YOU WERE THERE!
I WAS THERE, IKARIS... I CAME TO KNOW THE GODS!

THEN WITH YOUR HELP, I CAN SAFE-GUARD THESE GOOD HUMAN FOLK...
NO DANGER SHALL EVER CLAIM THIS SWEET YOUNG THING!
FORGIVE ME, BLUEBIRD. I MUST PERFORM AN URGENT TASK!

UNIT! MAN YOUR POSTS! OPEN WIDE THE COSMIC DOOR AND INITIATE THE PROCEDURE OF WELCOME FOR THE CELESTIALS!
WE HASTEN, SIRE!
SO THAT'S IT! I BEGIN TO UNDER-STAND IT, NOW!
I THINK THAT I DO TOO, DAD...


THE TOUCH OF A TRIDENT OPENS THE "COSMIC DOOR" WHICH REVEALS WHAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN FROM HUMAN EYES FOR CENTURIES-- IT IS THE INCA VERSION OF A FLIGHT CONTROL ROOM!
THE UNIT IS IN OPERATION, LORD OF FLIGHT!
LINK UP WITH THE CELESTIALS-- SO THAT THEY MAY HEAR MY VOICE!
THEY'RE A GROUND CREW, MARGO-- THE KIND WE USE AT ANY AIRPORT! THIS MAKES SENSE NOW!


THE PRESENCE OF THE CELESTIALS IS AT ITS HIGHEST, SIRE! I'VE MADE IT KNOWN THAT OUR ATOMS ARE REASSEMBLED. AND, THAT YOU, THE CHOSEN ONE, STAND BY TO GREET THEM!
SO SHALL IT BE! ONCE MORE I STAND HUMBLE IN THEIR SIGHT! OPEN THE CHANNEL!


HAIL TO THE CELESTIAL HOSTS AND THOSE WHO LEAD THEM! WE, THE REFLECTIONS OF YOUR IMAGE, AWAIT THE MEANING OF YOUR NEW MISSION...
THUS, AJAK AND THIS UNIT WERE STORED FOR AN AGE!
THEY TRAIN GROUND CREWS-- AND STORE THEIR ATOMS WHEN THEY'RE NOT NEEDED!
SO THIS IS WHAT THE GODS EXPECTED UPON THEIR ARRIVAL! NO WONDER WE WERE DRIVEN FROM THE FIELD!


ALL CONVERSATION CEASES AS SOMETHING THAT IS MORE THAN A VOICE ECHOES EVERYWHERE IN THE ROOM...
WHEN THE FIRST OF US APPEARS TO YOU, FAITHFUL ONE--LOOK WELL UPON HIS VISAGE--AND KNOW THE MEANING OF OUR MISSION.
WHOEVER THAT MAY BE, WE AWAIT WITH SUBMISSION AS THE CROPS IN THE FIELD WAIT FOR THE PLANTER WHOSE HAND DID SOW THEM...
WELCOME, GREAT CELESTIALS AND DESCEND AMONG US!


AJAK TURNS TO HIS UNIT AND BARKS THE ORDERS THAT WOULD BRING THE GODS TO EARTH...
PREPARE TO RAISE THE CEREMONIAL PYLONS BENEATH THE CELESTIALS' SPACECRAFT! EVEN NOW, THE FIRST OF THE GODS DESCENDS!


ON THE GREAT FIELD OUTSIDE, A HUGE PYLON RISES FROM THE GROUND. A PILLAR OF BLAZING ENERGY LEAPS FROM ITS TOP--AND WITHIN THAT BRIGHT FLAME THE FIRST SIGNS OF THE CELESTIAL ARE SEEN...

ARISHEM, LEADER OF THE FOURTH HOST, LANDS FIRMLY UPON THE PYLON. HE WILL STAND UPON IT FOR FIFTY EARTH YEARS, TOWERING LIKE THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS ABOVE ALL LIFE BELOW! AND, ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FIFTIETH YEAR--HE WILL STEP FROM THE PYLON--AND ON THAT DAY, EARTH WILL LIVE--OR DIE!

DON'T STOP SHAKING YET, FANS! THERE'S LOTS MORE SHAKING TO BE DONE!!!

WATCH FOR--

THE DEVIL IN NEW YORK

IN OUR NEXT NERVE SHATTERING ISSUE!